

REPORT NO.

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(FBID. This strictly factual report is based solely on monitored foreign radio broadcasts received in Washington up to 8 a.m., 2 February 1950. It reproduces a report prepared in response to a special request.)

INTRODUCTION: According to the BBC, "world comment on President Truman's decision... has for the most part been limited to saying that it was inevitable. In some circles, however, it is feared that this is the beginning of an armaments race." In general, the same description applies to the considerable amount of comment that has been monitored from foreign radios outside the Soviet orbit. Within the Soviet-Communist sphere the only radios to have reported or commented on the President's decision are Radio Leipzig and the ADN press service in Soviet-controlled Germany, and the Soviet-controlled program of the Austrian station at Vienna. The substance of the German comment, however, is of particular interest in view of past instances when the finally established Soviet-Communist propaganda line on important new situations and events has been at least partially foreshadowed by initial broadcasts from the Soviet-controlled German stations. And currently, the German comment about the hydrogen bomb dwells on its "blackmail" character and on unusually pointed, implicit counter-threats about Soviet development of a similar bomb and about the importance of manpower in deciding the outcome of a war. Also somewhat unusual is a personal attack on the President--"War Inciter Number One" who, with "his clique, knows one objective only, and that is war, and more war"; Truman and his clique are "nothing but quite ordinary crooks who only think of how they can burn, scald, and suffocate our children, women, and mothers."

THE QUESTION OF DIRECT U.S. NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR: Radio Leipzig's first relevant broadcast reports, with implied approval, the American Communist Party's demand that the President should retract his decision and "start direct negotiations

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with the Soviet Government concerning the prohibition of atomic weapons."\* This sentiment, however, is not repeated in the subsequent Soviet-controlled comments.\*\* Nor is it even broached in broadcasts from radios outside the Soviet orbit. Some of the latter cite the President's decision as: a "solemn warning to the Russians... (to) hasten to join the atomic control group before the U.S. undertakes manufacture of the hydrogen bomb" (Radio Paris quoting the Radical Socialist L'AUREOLE); or as a possible "hint at a new effort" to secure atomic control agreement by way of an implied willingness to close down the hydrogen-bomb project once adequate agreement is reached (BBC reporting the MANCHESTER GUARDIAN's opinion).

**AMERICAN "SUPER-BLACKMAIL":** It will be remembered that one of the major Soviet-Communist propaganda themes attendant on the announcement of a Soviet atomic explosion was the "consequent failure of American atomic diplomacy and blackmail." And currently, the major theme of the as yet relatively limited Soviet-controlled German and Austrian radio propaganda about the hydrogen-bomb decision is that "in the name of humanity, the U.S. is now embarking on a new, large-scale attempt at blackmail." The decision is a "continuation of the present war policy of the American Government" and aims at "intimidation of the peace-loving peoples." It reveals the mentality of American generals and politicians who are prepared to resort to "mass murder" in order to realize their imperialist plans. Its real aim was to create an atmosphere of fear in order to "break up the peace movement." A Leipzig commentator, putting words into American mouths, asserts that the following is "what the Americans want to say":

"It is in our power to kill the lot of you. Don't rebel, therefore, even if we may be doing something that displeases you. You must realize after all that you can continue to live only by following in the wake of the strong and invincible United States."

The decision is even described as a sort of internal American blackmail similar to Hitler's attempt to encourage bitter-end German fighting "with his tales of the forthcoming German 'secret weapon.'"

**BUT THE USSR IS "FURTHER ADVANCED IN ATOMIC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT":** To depreciate the power of this new American "blackmail" threat, the Soviet-controlled broadcasts, especially from Germany, resort to implied counter-threats of an unusually direct sort. The Leipzig radio, for example, says that the hydrogen bomb has been under American consideration ever since the "embarrassing discovery that the USSR was further advanced in the development of atomic energy." And, bringing the subject up to date:

"The Americans know full well that the Soviet Union has the lead in the development of atomic energy and its application. They also realized that the USSR knows the method for the production of the new hydrogen bomb and that it commands the resources necessary for its manufacture."

Implying the same thing, a NEUES DEUTSCHLAND (Communist) article distributed by ADN finds it "true that the peril of war is heightened immensely by the decision of the U.S. Government; but he who sows the wind shall reap the whirlwind."

**THE DECISIVE MILITARY IMPORTANCE OF MANPOWER:** Then, from Radio Leipzig, comes an equally rare type of implied counter-threat--that based on "manpower." "For in spite of all this feverish development of the means of mass destruction," it is claimed that "they (Americans, like former Secretary Foranestel who landed in a madhouse) know very well that a war cannot be decided by these weapons but only by the use of manpower. And the men who could be used for such operations are not on the side of those with a vested interest in war." Indeed, exemplified by the European workers who refuse to unload American shipments of arms, they are allegedly on the side of the worldwide "peace movements" and "national liberation movements" which are rallying around the Soviet Union.

Thus, despite the future American "horror stories" against which Radio Leipzig's listeners are warned, this new attempt at "intimidation" and "bluff" will "meet with the same failure as the former atomic bomb policy."

\* Leipzig also reports the American Communist charge that the decision "bypassed the American people" and was arrived at "without public debate."

\*\* But in a later broadcast, Leipzig charges that, to date, the U.S. has used all sorts of subterfuges to evade the Soviet Union's demand for unconditional outlawing of all means of mass destruction. "The reason is that the U.S. needs a bogey...to persuade mankind of U.S. superiority."

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